

DNREC reminds Delawareans and visitors to take advantage of free admission on ‘Delaware State Parks Day’ Sunday, June 5

DOVER – With Governor Jack Markell having proclaimed Sunday, June 5 as “Delaware State Parks Day,” DNREC’s Division of Parks & Recreation reminds Delawareans and visitors alike that admission is free that day to most parks comprising the Delaware State Parks system, which garnered the 2016 Gold Medal Award as the nation’s best-managed parks system. Free parks admission is also made possible through sponsorship from the Delaware Tourism Office’s [“Visit Delaware”](#).

“Tourism in Delaware contributes \$3 billion to our economy annually – and having the best state parks in the country is key to our success,” said Gov. Markell said in making his “Delaware State Parks Day” announcement. “Delaware attracts multitudes of out-of-state – and in-state – visitors who come to enjoy scenic and recreational destinations like the Junction & Breakwater Trail at Cape Henlopen for biking, Delaware Seashore State Park and the Indian River Marina for surf-fishing and boating, Lums Pond for zip-lining, along with many other great outdoors and cultural experiences. I encourage Delawareans and visitors to our state alike to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity on June 5 to enjoy all our parks have to offer.”

“With Delaware State Parks is celebrating their 65th anniversary this year and also the National Gold Medal Award from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) as the best-managed parks system in the country, the free

admission on Delaware State Parks Day June 5 is a great opportunity for folks to experience our great state parks and to see for themselves why Delaware's parks system was chosen No. 1 nationally," said DNREC Secretary David Small.

"The state parks system is a scenic and exciting way for visitors to discover what makes Delaware special," said Delaware Tourism Director Linda Parkowski. "The state drew a record eight million visitors in 2014 thanks in large part to Delaware's five-star beaches, which include beaches at three state parks. Visit Delaware's continued partnership with Delaware State Parks, through programs like the Delaware Outdoor Trail, keeps that tourism momentum going."

DNREC Division of Parks & Recreation/Delaware State Parks Director Ray Bivens said that June 5 is a date doubly important to anyone planning to take advantage of free admission for state parks and who might also want to fish for free and without needing a fishing license – as June 4 and 5 comprise the "Fish for Free" weekend in Delaware, sponsored by DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife, and includes freshwater angling opportunities within many state parks.

More information on Delaware State Parks' 65th anniversary celebration and the "Free Day in the Park" presented by the Delaware Tourism Office's "Visit Delaware" can be found at www.destateparks.com/65years. For more on "Visit Delaware", including lists of things to do in Delaware and ways to plan your next trip, please go to www.VisitDelaware.com.

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